AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (cancelled).

18. (previously presented): A method of treatment to reduce plasma cholesterol levels of an animal, to maintain a reduced cholesterol level in an animal or to reduce the LDL:HDL cholesterol ratio in plasma of an animal comprising orally administering to an animal in need thereof, an oral dosage composition comprising an effective amount of microbial lipids, wherein said microbial lipids are methanotrophic bacterial phospholipids having C_{14} to C_{22} fatty acid side chains, which fatty acids are >80% wt saturated or monounsaturated, whereby plasma cholesterol levels are reduced, a reduced cholesterol level is maintained or the LDL:HDL cholesterol ratio in plasma is reduced.

19. (withdrawn-previously presented): A method for increasing plasma docosahexanenoic acid (DHA) in an animal comprising orally administering to an animal in need thereof, an oral dosage composition comprising microbial lipids, wherein said microbial lipids are methanotrophic bacterial phospholipids having C_{14} to C_{22} fatty acid side chains, which fatty acids are >80% wt saturated or monounsaturated.

20. (withdrawn-previously presented): A method for achieving an immuno-protectant effect in an animal comprising orally administering to an animal in need thereof, an oral dosage

composition comprising microbial lipids, wherein said microbial lipids are methanotrophic bacterial phospholipids having C_{14} to C_{22} fatty acid side chains, which fatty acids are >80% wt saturated or monounsaturated.

21. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said animal is a human.

22. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said animal is a human.

23. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said animal is a human.

24. (previously presented): The method as claimed Claim 18, wherein said animal is a fish.

25. (withdrawn): The method as claimed Claim 19, wherein said animal is a fish.

26. (withdrawn): The method as claimed Claim 20, wherein said animal is a fish.

27. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said fish is a juvenile fish.

28. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein said fish is a juvenile fish.

29. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said fish is a juvenile fish.

30-32. (cancelled).

33. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said composition is an encapsulated composition.

34. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said composition is an encapsulated composition.

35. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said composition is an encapsulated composition.

36. (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said composition comprises at least 80% wt. microbial lipid, and comprises at least 10 g of said microbial lipid.

37. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said lipid is phosphatidylethanolamine.

38. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 37, wherein said phosphatidylethanolamine is a phosphatidylethanolamine having $C_{16:0}$ and/or $C_{16:1}$ fatty acid side chains.

39. (withdrawn): A foodstuff comprising a microbial lipid extract and a nutrient component.

40. (withdrawn): The foodstuff as claimed in Claim 39, wherein said nutrient component is of non-microbial origin.

41. (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical or nutraceutical composition comprising a microbial lipid extract together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

42. (withdrawn): A food product harvested from an animal fed with a microbial lipid.

43. (withdrawn): The food product as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said food product is an avian egg.

44. (new): The method of claim 18, wherein the lipids are extracted from a microbial biomass.